

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for controlling, in accordance with a plurality of speech commands input by a user, a plurality of electronic apparatuses on a network connected to said information processing apparatus, said information processing apparatus comprising:

command definition information obtaining means for obtaining command definition information which defines a correspondence between the plurality of speech commands input by the user and a plurality of control commands for controlling said plurality of electronic apparatuses;

storage means for storing said command definition information obtained by said command definition information obtaining means;

speech recognition means for recognizing a speech command input by the user;

determining means for determining a control command corresponding to the speech command as recognized by said speech recognition means, based on said command definition information stored in said storage means; and

control means for controlling one of said plurality of electronic apparatuses using the control command determined by said determining means;

wherein when one or more new electronic apparatuses are connected to said network, new command definition information associated with said one or more new electronic apparatuses is added to said storage means; and

wherein when one or more of said plurality of electronic apparatuses are disconnected from said network, previously stored command definition information is ~~either (i) removed from~~

~~said storage means or (ii)~~ temporarily stored in said storage means for a predetermined period of time.

2. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said command definition information is associated with ID information of said plurality of electronic apparatuses.

3. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said command definition information defines, on the basis of operation status of said plurality of electronic apparatuses, acceptable speech commands, control commands corresponding to the speech commands, and transitions of operation status which occur on execution of each of the control commands.

4. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said determining means comprises operation status detecting means for detecting the operation status of said plurality of electronic apparatuses, whereby said determining means determines, in accordance with the operation status of said plurality of electronic apparatuses detected by said operation status detecting means, the control command corresponding to the speech command as recognized by said speech recognition means, based on said command definition information.

5. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said command definition information obtaining means obtains said command definition information from a server on the Internet or from a storage medium.

6. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising ID information obtaining means for obtaining ID information of said plurality of electronic apparatuses,

wherein said command definition information obtaining means obtains said command definition information based on the ID information of said plurality of electronic apparatuses obtained by said ID information obtaining means.

7. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said ID information includes at least one of a node ID, a product ID, a machine ID, or a type ID.

8. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said command definition information obtaining means obtains said command definition information based on the node ID, the product ID, the machine ID, or the type ID, in that order of priority, included in the ID information of said plurality of electronic apparatuses obtained by said ID information obtaining means.

9. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising connection status detecting means for detecting the connection status of said plurality of electronic apparatuses.

10. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising selecting means for allowing the user to select one of said plurality of electronic apparatuses,

wherein said determining means is allowed to determine the control command corresponding to the speech command as recognized by said speech recognition means, based on only part of said command definition information corresponding to the electronic apparatus selected by said selecting means.

11. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising control command history storage means for storing history information regarding the control command determined by said determining means,

wherein an electronic apparatus in accordance with a user input or an electronic apparatus which is found to be most recently operated according to the history information stored in said control command history storage means is controlled using the control command, if it is not otherwise determined which of said plurality of electronic apparatuses be controlled using the control command.

12. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising command definition information generation means for generating command definition information as desired,

wherein said command definition information obtaining means is allowed to obtain said command definition information from said command definition information generation means.

13. (Currently Amended) An information processing method in an information processing apparatus for controlling, in accordance with a plurality of speech commands input by a user, a plurality of electronic apparatuses on a network connected to said information processing apparatus, said information processing method comprising the steps of:

obtaining command definition information which defines a correspondence between the plurality of speech commands input by the user and a plurality of control commands for controlling said plurality of electronic apparatuses;

storing said command definition information obtained in the command definition information obtaining step in a storage means;

recognizing a speech command input by the user;

determining a control command corresponding to the speech command as recognized in the speech recognition step, based on said command definition information stored in said storing step; and

controlling one of said plurality of electronic apparatuses using the control command determined in the determining step;

wherein when one or more new electronic apparatuses are connected to said network, new command definition information associated with said one or more new electronic apparatuses is added to said storage means; and

wherein when one or more of said plurality of electronic apparatuses are disconnected from said network, previously stored command definition information is ~~either (i) removed from said storage means or (ii)~~ temporarily stored in said storage means for a predetermined period of time.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program for controlling an information processing apparatus which controls, in accordance with a plurality of speech commands input by a user, a plurality of electronic apparatuses on a network connected to said information processing apparatus, said computer program comprising the steps of:

obtaining command definition information which defines a correspondence between the plurality of speech commands input by the user and a plurality of control commands for controlling said plurality of electronic apparatuses;

storing said command definition information obtained in the command definition information obtaining step in a storage means;

recognizing a speech command input by the user;

determining a control command corresponding to the speech command as recognized in the speech recognition step, based on said command definition information stored in the storing step; and

controlling one of said plurality of electronic apparatuses using the control command determined in the determining step;

wherein when one or more new electronic apparatuses are connected to said network, new command definition information associated with said one or more new electronic apparatuses is added to said storage means; and

wherein when one or more of said plurality of electronic apparatuses are disconnected from said network, previously stored command definition information is ~~either (i) removed from said storage means or (ii)~~ temporarily stored in said storage means for a predetermined period of time.

15. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to Claim 13, wherein said command definition information is associated with ID information of said plurality of electronic apparatuses.

16. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to Claim 13, wherein said command definition information defines, on the basis of operation status of said plurality of electronic apparatuses, acceptable speech commands, control commands corresponding to the speech commands, and transitions of operation status which occur on execution of each of the control commands.

17. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to Claim 16, wherein said determining step comprises an operation status detecting step for detecting the operation status of said plurality of electronic apparatuses, whereby said determining step

determines, in accordance with the operation status of said plurality of electronic apparatuses detected by said operation status detecting step, the control command corresponding to the speech command as recognized by said speech recognition step, based on said command definition information.

18. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to Claim 13, wherein said command definition information obtaining step obtains said command definition information from a server on the Internet or from a storage medium.

19. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to Claim 13, further comprising an ID information obtaining step for obtaining ID information of said plurality of electronic apparatuses,

wherein said command definition information obtaining step obtains said command definition information based on the ID information of said plurality of electronic apparatuses obtained by said ID information obtaining step.

20. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to Claim 19, wherein said ID information includes at least one of a node ID, a product ID, a machine ID, or a type ID.

21. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to Claim 19, wherein said command definition information obtaining step obtains said command definition information based on the node ID, the product ID, the machine ID, or the type ID, in that order

of priority, included in the ID information of said plurality of electronic apparatuses obtained by said ID information obtaining step.

22. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to Claim 13, further comprising a connection status detecting step for detecting the connection status of said plurality of electronic apparatuses.

23. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to Claim 13, further comprising a selecting step for allowing the user to select one of said plurality of electronic apparatuses,

wherein said determining step is allowed to determine the control command corresponding to the speech command as recognized by said speech recognition step, based on only part of said command definition information corresponding to the electronic apparatus selected by said selecting step.

24. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to Claim 13, further comprising a control command history storage step for storing history information regarding the control command determined by said determining step,

wherein an electronic apparatus in accordance with a user input or an electronic apparatus which is found to be most recently operated according to the history information stored in said control command history storage step is controlled using the control command, if it is not otherwise determined which of said plurality of electronic apparatuses be controlled using the control command.

25. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to Claim 13, further comprising a command definition information generation step for generating command definition information as desired,

wherein said command definition information obtaining step is allowed to obtain said command definition information from said command definition information generation step.